

Application No.: 10/764618
Amendment dated: December 19, 2005
Reply to Office action of 09/29/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1(Currently amended). A wet paper web transfer belt, ready for use in the press part of a closed draw papermaking machine, said belt comprising a base body, a machine side layer, and a wet paper web side layer, the wet paper web side layer comprising a high molecular weight elastic material, having a wet paper web contacting surface and ~~having porous~~ fibers embedded ~~therein~~ in said elastic material, wherein said wet paper web side layer is obtained by mixing said ~~porous~~ fibers with high molecular weight elastic material, and a plurality of said ~~porous~~ fibers have portions which are embedded in said elastic material and portions which protrude from said wet paper web contacting surface, said protruding portions of said fibers having pores capable of drawing in water by capillary action.

2-8(Canceled).

9(Previously presented). A wet paper web transfer belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the area ratio of the exposed parts of the porous fibers to said wet paper web contacting surface is in the range from 5% to 50%.

10(Previously presented). A wet paper transfer belt as claimed in claim 1, wherein the porosity of said porous fibers is around 60%.

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11(new). A wet paper web transfer belt as claimed in claim 1, in which the embedded portions of said plurality of fibers also have pores, and in which said plurality of fibers are firmly anchored in the wet paper web side layer by entry of elastic material of said wet paper web side layer into pores of said embedded portions.

12(New). A closed draw papermaking machine comprising a press part, and a wet paper web transfer belt in said press part arranged to move through said press part, said belt comprising a base body, a machine side layer, and a wet paper web side layer, the wet paper web side layer comprising a high molecular weight elastic material, having a wet paper web contacting surface and fibers embedded in said elastic material, wherein said wet paper web side layer is obtained by mixing said fibers with high molecular weight elastic material, and a plurality of said fibers have portions which are embedded in said elastic material and portions which protrude from said wet paper web contacting surface, said protruding portions of said fibers having pores capable of drawing in water by capillary action.

13(New). A closed draw papermaking machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the area ratio of the exposed parts of the porous fibers to said wet paper web contacting surface is in the range from 5% to 50%.

14(New). A closed draw papermaking machine as claimed in claim 12, wherein the porosity of said porous fibers is around 60%.

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15(New). A closed draw papermaking machine as claimed in claim 12, in which the embedded portions of said plurality of fibers also have pores, and in which said plurality of fibers are firmly anchored in the wet paper web side layer by entry of elastic material of said wet paper web side layer into pores of said embedded portions.